

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application

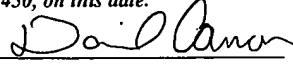
Applicant: Ikeda et al.

Serial No.

Filed: March 23, 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of foreign patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.


March 23, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

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Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Attorney Docket No.: 0941.70144	Serial No.:
	Applicant: Ikeda et al.	
	Filing Date: March 23, 2004	Group:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	2000-29014	Jan. 28, 2000	Japan			Abs.	
	2002-341330	Nov. 27, 2002	Japan			Abs.	
	9-49916	Feb. 18, 1997	Japan			Abs.	
	9-101540	April 15, 1997	Japan			Abs.	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner

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